

REMARKS

This Amendment is respectfully submitted in response to the Final Rejection rendered April 4, 2003. It is timely submitted in view of the Petition for Extension of Time submitted concurrently herewith. A Notice of Appeal is respectfully submitted concurrently herewith as well in order to maintain the pendency of the application. Applicants respectfully request the entry of the foregoing amendment as the amendments to the claims place them in a better form for allowance or appeal.

Claim 18 was objected to in the Final Rejection as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicants have amended this claim to be dependent upon claim 14, which is pending in this application.

Claims 14, 15 and 18 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,352,698 B1. Applicants respectfully submit concurrently herewith a terminal disclaimer in response to this rejection.

An early allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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